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Date: February 26, 2004

Docket No.: 1131-0501P

**MS PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b),  
is a Continuation application of PCT International Application  
No. PCT/JP02/09816 filed on September 25, 2002.

Inventor(s): Hiroshi OKAMOTO

For: ROD-SHAPED ARTICLE FORMING DEVICE

Enclosed are:

- ☒ A specification consisting of seventeen (17) pages
- ☒ Five (5) sheet(s) of formal drawings
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.
- ☐ Applicant does not claim priority
- ☒ Applicant claims the right of priority under the provisions  
of 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a) based on  
Application No(s). 2001-297088 filed in Japan on September  
27, 2001.
- ☒ Certified copy(ies) is(are) attached hereto.
- ☐ Certified copy(ies) will follow.

Docket No. 1131-0501P

- ☒ Priority of PCT International Application No. PCT/JP02/09816 filed on September 25, 2002 is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120.
- ☒ Executed Declaration ☒ Original ☐ Photocopy
- ☒ An assignment of the invention
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 with reference(s)
- ☐ Other:

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

			LARGE ENTITY	SMALL ENTITY
	BASIC FEE		\$770.00	\$385.00
	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE FEE	RATE FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	4- 20 =	0	X 18 = \$0.00	x 9 = \$0.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	1- 3 =	0	x 86 = \$0.00	x 43 = \$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED			+ \$290.00	+ \$145.00
TOTAL			\$770.00	\$0.00

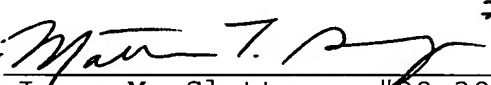
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$810.00 to cover the filing fee and recording fee (if applicable) is enclosed.
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2448 in the amount of \$0.00. A triplicate copy of this transmittal form is enclosed.
- ☒ Please send correspondence to:  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP or Customer No. 02292  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

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1131-0501P

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Attachment(s)

(Rev. 02/13/2004)